

claimed the innocent lives of twenty children and six school employees. The loss of life and innocence at Sandy Hook is a tragedy over which all Americans mourn, and the thoughts and prayers of Americans everywhere go out to all the victims and their families.

This tragedy represents the fourth time the Nation has been horrified to learn that innocent lives have been ended by gun violence in the past few months. I believe the time has come—indeed, the time has long passed—for this Nation to reevaluate the accessibility and control, in particular, of military assault weapons in our country.

I therefore call upon the President and the Congress to place sensible gun control legislation at the top of their legislative agenda, beginning with the reposition of the expired assault weapons ban. Although such action cannot undo last week's tragedy, I believe it will help to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. For the sake of those lost in Connecticut and all Americans who mourn, we should act without delay.

Words cannot express the deep grief of the families and loved ones of the victims, nor can they properly offer comfort. My thoughts and prayers are with the children, parents, teachers, staff members, and families affected by the violence. I ask my colleagues to join me in a moment of silence.

IN RECOGNITION OF BRUCE
BODAKEN

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my friend and true visionary Bruce Bodaken, who many years ago brought his passion to expand health insurance coverage to all Americans to Blue Shield of California. Bruce is now retiring after a remarkable ten-year tenure of outstanding service as Chairman, President and CEO of Blue Shield.

Bruce is not your typical health plan CEO. In fact, I was prepared not to like him when we first met more than ten years ago. He has a Masters degree in philosophy and was teaching that subject at the University of Colorado when he shifted his career to health care. The man who will take over Bruce's role in January 2013, Paul Markovich, currently COO of Blue Shield, calls him their "resident philosopher."

Under Bruce's leadership, Blue Shield became one of the fastest growing health plans in California, with a total membership today of 3.3 million and 4,800 employees. In 2002, Bruce was the first health plan CEO in the country to propose a plan for universal coverage. His plan became a template for the Affordable Care Act enacted by Congress in 2010. I share Bruce's belief that health care is a right, not a privilege.

Bruce launched the Blue Shield of California Foundation which has given over \$150 million in grants during the last five years to support community clinics, children's health initiatives, domestic violence programs, leadership training and policy research. It was named one of the country's 20 most generous corporate foundations by BusinessWeek in 2010.

In a remarkable move, Bruce oversaw the company's precedent setting step to cap prof-

its at two percent of revenue and return the differences to its customers. Last year that difference amounted to almost \$500 million.

Bruce also serves on the board and executive committee of America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and the BlueCross and BlueShield Association board. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine's Roundtable on Value & Science-Driven Health Care and serves on the board of directors of the California Business Roundtable, WageWorks, and the University of California, Berkeley's Health Services Management Program.

He joined Blue Shield in 1994 as president and chief operating officer. Previously, he served as senior vice president and associate chief operating officer of FHP International Corporation in Southern California.

A native of Iowa, Bruce earned his BA from Colorado State University and his MA from the University of Colorado, both in philosophy.

Bruce says that his education has deeply influenced his career and world perspective. When he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Francisco Business Times this year, he said that his training in philosophy, logic, communications and thinking about big questions had an application particularly in a world that was changing to a new model of health care.

In his retirement, Bruce is looking forward to dedicating more time to his family and friends and his favorite past time—tennis.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me to honor Bruce Bodaken, a compassionate leader, big thinker and tireless advocate. His fight to cover all the uninsured isn't over and hasn't always been easy, but he will not give up. His commitment reminds me of something his most inspirational icon, Nelson Mandela, once said: "When the water starts boiling, it is foolish to turn off the heat."

CELEBRATING THE 85TH BIRTHDAY OF HIS MAJESTY KING
BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ OF THAILAND

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, we join the people of Thailand in commemorating the 85th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on December 5, 2012.

During King Bhumibol's 66 year reign, he has continued to foster a strong partnership with the United States. As a great source of tranquility in the country, he has helped Thailand strengthen its friendship with the United States while becoming an example of democracy and economic development in Southeast Asia. Next year, we look forward to celebrating the 180th anniversary of America's bilateral relationship with Thailand since the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce.

King Bhumibol's life work has been dedication to the fulfillment of his coronation oath: "We shall reign with righteousness for the benefit and happiness of the Siamese people." Today we applaud his righteousness and his many accomplishments that have brought peace, stability, and prosperity to the people of Thailand. It is known that His Majesty is a

talented musician, and today we recognize he has replaced discord with harmony throughout his life.

It is my pleasure to join our Thai friends in celebrating this important occasion, and extend my best regards to His Majesty for his good health and a happy birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, December 17, 2012, I was unable to be present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: "yes" on vote No. 627 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 4606, as amended); and "yes" on vote No. 628 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 3193).

IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTINE
KROLIK

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Christine Krolik, retiring Hillsborough city council member, former mayor, and tireless advocate for our public schools and many community organizations.

Christine moved to Hillsborough in 1995 with her husband Jeff and two sons, John and Billy. She immediately immersed herself in work to improve the public school system by advocating for smaller class sizes. She combined two of her outstanding talents in this effort: singing and fundraising. While she co-chaired the Scrip Committee from 1996–2000, she launched the Scrippettes singers to promote sales. The four Scrippettes performed jazzy versions of holiday songs including "Jingle Bell Rock," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and "Swingin' at Santa's Place." Today the group calls itself Swing Set and continues to delight people at civic functions from singing the National Anthem at Giants' games to warming up the crowd at Hillsborough's Light Up the Town celebrations.

Christine's boundless energy has been successfully put to use as co-chair of Hillsborough Concourse events in 2001, co-chair of the Measure B campaign to benefit Hillsborough's public schools in 2002, and the Citizens Communication Advisory Committee appointed by the mayor to help the city council and town staff to communicate with residents about issues affecting the town, also in 2002.

Christine was first elected to the city council in 2004. From 2006–2008, she served as vice mayor, and from 2008–2010 she served as mayor. During her 2010 term, she oversaw Hillsborough's Centennial, a flawlessly orchestrated celebration featuring marching bands, floats and vintage cars, and the dedication of Centennial Park. That year Christine was appropriately honored for her countless contributions as Hillsborough Citizen of the Year.

Christine is a firm believer that a strong sense of community is vital in a city and improves quality of life. While mayor, she embarked on an ambitious agenda to develop a